

FIND Festival 2023 - Schaubühne Berlin

Now the dead speak

The Wooster Group conjures up a legend of European theater. A production from Oslo happily splatters with blood. Everything could be so beautiful at the International Drama Festival. If it weren't for a staging that was deeply reactionary.

April 27, 2023. Can international new drama, which is traditionally presented every year at the FIND Festival, deal with anything other than the world-shattering major political events? The Ukraine war, the revolution in Iran, the climate catastrophe? Or, on the contrary, would it have to resist the fact that all pointless artistic efforts are being stifled by political developments? This year's FIND Festival refuses to answer this question and therefore has no uniform basic idea this time.

There are productions that directly address a political situation and others that are mainly interested in form. And then there is a series of productions by the Wooster Group, this year "Artists in Focus", 50 years avant-garde, tirelessly sampling material from their own lives with events of the day politics and big plays from all times and from the dazzling splinters with all builds kaleidoscopes using new technical means as if there were no contradiction between agitprop and l'art pur l'art.

(...about other groups/work...)

"Burnt Toast" by Susi Wang

The Oslo troupe Susie Wang is refreshingly uninterested in neither political interventions, nor post- or anti-dramatics. With "Burnt toast" they deliver a splatter-horror-psycho-scary show of the finest kind, as if they wanted to call out to their cinema role models Lynch, Tarantino, Cronenberg and Aronofsky: Look what we've achieved with our modest resources in terms of atmosphere and special effects!

In a red velvet hotel lobby, a sleazy guy hits on a young breastfeeding mother. They're talking Southern slang, he's got a silver briefcase chained to his wrist, plugs a hose into it, and gurgles and drinks out of it. You quickly suspect that you are dealing with a vampire. After he has lost himself in her still bleeding cesarean scar, she of course also transforms and a creepy horror romance begins.

In wild splattervolts, the baby gives birth to an embryo, from which its mother cuts out more skin-coloured embryos. Until at some point the bloodstained hand of the vampire's mother pulls four people into the briefcase. Only the smallest embryo remains and moves across the stage on its own – an incomprehensible little miracle. It is heartwarming how everything is crafted with such a devotion. The way special effects like in the wildest B-Picture are created with the simplest of means right in front of our eyes is great fun.

(...about other groups/work)